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**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/488,563

Applicant(s)

CARD ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Doug Hutton

2179

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Applicant's Response filed 28 January 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 5-9, 14-17, 24-32 and 34-40.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 21 January 2000 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)           |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br>Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                   |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br>of Biological Material          | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance  |
|   | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____   |

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Andrew S. Schwaab on 26 April 2005.

Amend the application as follows:

*In the Claims:*

- Claim 34, Line 1 → amend "33" to — 25 —.

### ***Applicant's Response***

In Applicant's Response dated 28 January 2005, Applicant amended Claims 5, 14, 24, 25, 35, 38 and 39, added new Claim 10, cancelled Claims 6 and 7, and argued against all objections and rejections previously set forth in the Office Action dated 28 September 2004.

All objections and rejections previously set forth are withdrawn.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 5-9, 14-17, 24-32 and 34-40 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

***Claims 5, 14 and 24:***

The closest prior art is Lawrence. Lawrence discloses CITESEER®, a citation indexing system used to create indexes of user-specified topics. CITESEER® includes a graphical user interface that displays source documents and the documents cited by the source documents (hereinafter, "secondary documents"). CITESEER® allows a user to select and view secondary documents and to navigate those documents. Lawrence also discloses prior art citation indexing systems that allow a user to perform "backward" and "forward" citation navigations, to perform searches for citations and to analyze the relevance of citations with respect to a source document.

Lawrence fails to disclose or suggest ***graphically*** displaying source documents and secondary documents on a virtual board, wherein representations of information relating to the source documents and/or secondary documents are capable of being ***graphically rearranged*** as a function of relational information.

***Claims 6-9 and 15-17:***

These claims are dependent upon Claims 5 and 14 and are thus allowable.

*Claims 25 and 35:*

The closest prior art is Goffman. Goffman discloses an automated information retrieval system that begins with a “starter” document (hereinafter, source material) and retrieves related documents from a database (hereinafter, secondary materials), wherein the retrieval of each secondary material is based on its relevance to the source material. For each secondary material, a relevance value is calculated and those secondary materials meeting a relevance threshold are retrieved from the database. Goffman also discloses “relational information” between the source material and the secondary materials in that the system records information in tables, digraphs and trees pertaining to the relevance between the various materials and a numerical measure of that relevance. This “relational information” is refigured each time a retrieval is executed.

Goffman fails to disclose or suggest relational information between a source material and secondary materials, wherein the relational information is ***previously*** generated and ***pre-stored***, and wherein the source material and secondary materials are adapted to be graphically depicted and rearranged as a function of: 1) the ***pre-stored relational information***; and 2) user input.

*Claims 26-32, 34 and 36-40:*

These claims are dependent upon Claims 25 and 35 and are thus allowable.

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Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Doug Hutton whose telephone number is (571) 272-4137. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon, can be reached at (571) 272-4136. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-2100.

WDH  
April 25, 2005

  
HEATHER R. HERNDON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100